

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

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STADIS////////////////////////////////////

EXDIS

FOR DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY BILLER

FOLLOWING REPEAT BUCHAREST 5069 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
TEHRAN 3 NOVEMBER.

QUOTE

S E C R E T BUCHAREST 5069

STADIS/EXDIS

SECTO 403

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: US-IRAN JOINT COMMISSION

1. MINISTER OF FINANCE ANSARY HEADING DELEGATION OF TEN
SENIOR IRANIAN OFFICIALS, OPENED THE FIRST MEETING OF THE
JOINT COMMISSION AT 9:45 AM NOVEMBER 2 BY WELCOMING THE
SECRETARY AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION AND EXPRESS-
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ING AT LENGTH IRAN'S ADMIRATION AND APPRECIATION FOR THE

SECRETARY'S EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN PEACE AND BRING STABILITY TO THE REGION. ANSARY SAID IRAN BELIEVES STRONGLY THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR ALL COUNTRIES OF THE REGION TO MOVE AWAY FROM CONFRONTATION AND EMBARK INSTEAD ON PROGRAM OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL PROGRESS. IRAN SEES THE JOINT COMMISSION AS A MEANS NOT ONLY OF ACCELERATING IRAN'S DEVELOPMENT AND FURTHER IMPROVING CLOSE RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND THE U.S. BUT ALSO AS FITTING INTO THE REGIONAL CONTEXT IN DEVELOPING PROJECTS FOR OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA.

2. ANSARY THEN DESCRIBED IRAN'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, CITING PRESENT STATISTICS AND GOALS FOR 1983. INDUSTRIAL GROWTH RATE WAS PROJECTED AT 16-18 PERCENT AND AGRICULTURAL GROWTH RATE MORE TENTATIVELY AT 7-8 PERCENT. ANSARY SAID AGRICULTURE WAS A HIGH PRIORITY AREA. HE DESCRIBED IRAN'S INVESTMENT PROGRAM ABROAD AND ITS OBJECTIVES OF: COMBATTING A WORLD RECESSION; HELPING DEVELOPMENT, PARTICULARLY REGIONALLY; HELPING RESOLVE THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM; AND ENSURING IRAN'S ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL RESOURCES.

3. ANSARY SAID THAT THE JOINT COMMISSION SHOULD CONCENTRATE ON THE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS AND INVOLVE BOTH THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS. SUBCOMMITTEES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR SPECIFIC AREAS. THOSE HE MENTIONED, AS SUGGESTIONS ONLY WHICH MIGHT INTEREST BOTH THE U.S. AND IRAN, WERE: A) NUCLEAR ENERGY IN WHICH IRAN WANTED TO WORK WITH THE U.S. IN URANIUM ENRICHMENT, CONSTRUCTION OF POWER PLANTS AND REACTORS, AND TRAINING OF PERSONNEL. B) AGRICULTURE, BOTH FOR IRAN AND THIRD COUNTRIES; IRAN WISHED TO CONTRIBUTE TO RESOLVING THE WORLD FOOD PROBLEM AS WELL AS EXPANDING ITS OWN PRODUCTION; PERHAPS A RELATIONSHIP WITH NASA WOULD BE USEFUL; AND IT IS INTERESTED IN THE POSSIBILITY OF A LONG-TERM FOOD IMPORT AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. TO MEET IRAN'S LONG-TERM NEEDS; C) INDUSTRY, ESPECIALLY ELECTRONICS, NEW STEEL PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES, ALUMINUM, FERROCHROME AND FERROMANGANESE, PETRO-CHEMICALS, THE GENERAL TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY AND MANPOWER TRAINING.

4. THE SECRETARY THANKED ANSARY FOR HIS REMARKS AND SHARED HIS HOPE THAT THE U.S. AND IRAN CAN MAKE A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION

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NOT ONLY TO THEIR BILATERAL RELATIONS BUT ALSO TO RESOLVING REGIONAL AND GLOBAL PROBLEMS. THE OUTLINE OF IRAN'S FUTURE WAS IMPRESSIVE, BOTH IN ITSELF AND AS A VISION OF OPTIMISM AND SUCCESS FOR THE MANY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD WHO ARE CURRENTLY UNDERGOING SELF-DOUBTS. WHAT WAS PARTICULARLY IMPRESSIVE WAS IRAN'S THINKING BEYOND THE PRESENT, SETTING A HIGH OBJECTIVE FOR ITSELF AND WORKING TOWARDS IT. THE SECRETARY HOPED THE JOINT COMMISSION WOULD SERVE THIS GOAL

AND NOT BE BOGGED DOWN IN TECHNICAL AND BUREAUCRATIC CONSIDERATIONS. THE SECRETARY SAID HE SHARED ANSARY'S OBJECTIVE OF SEEING THE REGION MOVE AWAY FROM CONFRONTATION TO COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT. HE HOPED THE JOINT COMMISSION WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THIS SHARED OBJECTIVE.

5. THE SECRETARY PROMISED TO GIVE THE JOINT COMMISSION HIS FULL SUPPORT. HE FOUND THE SPECIFIC AREAS OF CONCENTRATION MENTIONED BY ANSARY COMPATIBLE WITH OUR IDEAS.

6. ON NUCLEAR COOPERATION, THE SECRETARY EXPLAINED THE NEED FOR TIGHT CONTROLS TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS OR TECHNOLOGY WHICH COULD BE USED FOR MILITARY PURPOSES. THIS WAS A MAJOR CONSIDERATION BUT SHOULD NOT INTERFERE WITH THE PROGRAM OF PEACEFUL USES WHICH IRAN WISHES TO DEVELOP. WE WILL GIVE THIS PROPOSAL TOP PRIORITY.

7. ON AGRICULTURE, THE SECRETARY OBSERVED HE HAD DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT GENERALLY WITH THE SHAH AND THE TWO HAD COME TO A COMMON ACCORD ON SEVERAL IDEAS, ALTHOUGH THEY MIGHT REQUIRE SOME REFINEMENT AND FINAL APPROVAL AFTER EXAMINATION BY APPROPRIATE GOI MINISTRIES. HE AGREED WITH ANSARY THAT THIS WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT FIELD OF CONCENTRATION FOR THE JOINT COMMISSION, BOTH FOR IRANIAN AND REGIONAL PROJECTS; FOR EXAMPLE, COMMISSION MIGHT STUDY IDEA OF IRAN'S BECOMING REGIONAL CENTER FOR DEVELOPING ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY IN FERTILIZER AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL AREAS, AS WELL AS PROVIDING RESOURCES TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN REGION TO HELP THEIR EFFORTS TO INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION. ANSARY WELCOMED THIS IDEA AND SUGGESTED THAT SUB-COMMISSION MIGHT PREPARE PROPOSAL TO IMPLEMENT IT, AS WELL AS PROPOSAL FOR LONG TERM U.S.- IRANIAN FOOD SUPPLY AGREEMENT, FOR NEXT MEETING OF JOINT COMMISSION. SECRETARY AGREED THAT THIS PROPOSAL SHOULD BE

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STUDIED BUT SUGGESTED THAT, WITHOUT AWAITING SUCH A STUDY, USG AND GOI SHOULD BEGIN MORE SYSTEMATICALLY TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON FOOD SUPPLY/DEMAND SITUATION. THIS WOULD HELP US IN OUR DESIRE TO GIVE IRAN HIGH PRIORITY. ALSO, SECRETARY SAID, WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO WORK OUT AN ARRANGEMENT FOR IRAN TO PARTICIPATE IN OUR NASA PROGRAM OF EARTH RESOURCE SURVEYS, ETC. THE IDEA OF A LONG-TERM AGRICULTURAL AGREEMENT WOULD REQUIRE SOME FURTHER STUDY ONCE THE GOI HAD MADE CLEARER TO OUR EMBASSY JUST WHAT IT HAS IN MIND.

8. THE SECRETARY ENDED HIS REMARKS BY RECOMMENDING THAT THE EMBASSY, WITH ASSISTANCE AS NECESSARY FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND THE GOI SIT DOWN AND AGREE WITHIN 30 DAYS ON WHICH SUBCOMMITTEES OR WORKING GROUPS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED. ANSARI ACCEPTED THIS RECOMMENDATION.

9. FOR INGERSOLL - I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR GIVING SOME
THOUGHT, TOGETHER WITH NEA, EB, S/P, AND AID, TO HOW WE CAN
MOST EFFECTIVELY ORGANIZE OURSELVES TO GET EARLY, TANGIBLE
PROGRAMS UNDER US-IRANIAN COMMISSION. I WILL WANT TO DISCUSS
THIS WITH YOU WHEN I RETURN FROM CURRENT TRIP.
KISSINGER UNQUOTE
INGERSOLL

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